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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01
ACDA-12 SSM-05 NEAE-00 HA-05 SCS-06 CA-01 MCT-01
/107 W
----------085703 031415Z /45
O R 031338Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2344
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, IS
SUBJ: IDF SPOKESMAN REPLIES TO TIME MAGAZINE STORY

1. IN ITS APRIL 3 ISSUE TIME MAGAZINE PRINTED AN ARTICLE EN-
TITLED "WEST BANK CRACKDOWN," WHICH ALLEGED IDF
MISTREATMENT OF WEST BANKERS DURING DEMONSTRATIONS. IN
RESPONSE, THE IDF SPOKESMAN ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON
APRIL 2.

2. "BETWEEN MARCH 15TH DN 25TH, AND DURING THE IDF'S
ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, A NUMBER OF UNLAWFUL
INCIDENTS OCCURED, AND ORDER WAS REPEATEDLY DISTURBED
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IN JUDEA AND SAMARIA. THESE DISTURBANCES INVOLVED THE
BLOCKING OF MAIN HIGHWAYS, STONING OF MILITARY AND
CIVILIAN VEHICLES, ATTEMPTS TO SET FIRE TO VEHICLES, ETC.
--IT APPEARS THAT THE ORGANIZERS AND PERPETRATORS OF
THE DEMONSTRATIONS AND DISTURBANCES WERE MAINLY STUDENTS
OF VARIOUS SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTIONS WHO DID NOT HEED
THE REMONSTRATIONS OF LOCAL NOTABLES TRYING TO RESTORE QUIET.

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--IN THESE DISTURBANCES, SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS SUSTAINED IN-
JURIES, AN AMERICAN TOURIST WAS WOUNDED IN THE HEAD, AND
MILITARY AS WELL AS CIVILIAN VEHICLES WERE DAMAGED.

3. THE IDF'S CONCERN FOR HUMAN LIFE AND DIGNITY IS A WELL-KNOWN
FACT. STRICT ORDERS AND INSTRUCTIONS ARE GOVERNING THIS SUBJECT
THROUGHOUT THE REGION, INCLUDING THE PROHIBITION TO USE FIREARMS
AGAINST CIVILIANS, EXCEPT FOR TEAR-GAS, A WEAPON USED THROUGHOUT
THE WORLD TO DISPERSE UNLAWFUL GATHERINGS AND PREVENT DISTURBANCES
OF THE PEACE.

4. THE SCHOOL OF BEIT JALA BORDERS ON THE MAIN TRAFFIC ARTERY CON-
NECTING JERUSALEM WITH BETHLEHEM, AND ITS STUDENTS (WHO ARE MENTIONED
IN THE TIME ARTICLE) ERECTED A STONE BARRICADE AT THE CROSSROADS.
WHILE THUS ENGAGED, THEY STONED ANY VEHICLE APPROACHING THE
SPOT AND PREVENTED ITS PASSAGE.
--THE COMMANDER OF THE ISRAELI FORCE SUMMONED TO THE SITE TOLD
THE STUDENTS TO STOP THE STONING AND DISPERSE.IN REPLY, A HAIL
OF STONES WAS AIMED AT THE OFFICER, WHO FOLLOWED STANDING
INSTRUCTIONS IN USING TEAR-GAS GRENADES.
--THERE IS NO TRUTH WHATSOEVER IN THE ALLEGATION THAT TEAR-GAS
CONTAINERS WERE HURLED INTO CLASS ROOMS. THE INVESTIGATION SHOWED
THAT ONE SINGLE TEAR-GAS GRENADE LANDED IN THE COURTYARD OF THE
SCHOOL. NO SOLDIERS ENTERED THE SCHOOL PREMISES.
--ALSO IN BETHLEHEM, BARRICADES WERE DISMANTLED BY MEANS
SIMILAR TO THOSE DESCRIBED ABOVE.
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--AS FOR THE 'DISCLOSURE' REGARDING THE HAIRCUT: THE PRISON SER-
VICE USES TO CUT DETAINEES' HAIR (SIC). THIS APPLIES, FOR REASONS
OF HYGIENE, TO JEWISH AND ARAB PRISONERS ALIKE, AND THERE IS NO TRUTH
WHATSOEVER IN THE ALLEGATION OF GARDEN SHEARS HAVING BEEN USED
FOR SUCH 'HAIRCUTS.'
--THE PERSONS DETAINED AT RAMALLAH WERE NOT BROUGHT TO (ARMY)
HEADQUARTERS FOR WEEDING OUT GRASS.

5. THE IDF SPOKESMAN BELIEVES THAT THE CORRESPONDENT OF A PRESTIG-
IOUS MAGAZINE COULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO SHOW HIS ARTICLE ALSO TO
THOSE CONCERNED FOR THEIR COMMENT. IN THIS CASE, THE SPOKESMAN'S
COMMENTS ON THE STORY WERE INDEED GIVEN PRIOR TO ITS PUBLICATION,
BUT THE CORRESPONDENT DID NOT, FOR SOME REASON, THINK IT NECESSARY
TO PUBLISH THAT COMMENT OR PARTS OF IT, MAKING DO INSTEAD WITH THE
BRIEF REMARK: 'MILITARY AUTHORITIES DENIED THE STORY'--WHICH
IS REGRETTABLE."
LEWIS

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